



First News

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Thoughts from the Commander

By Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, Commander
First Army Division East

The summer is fast approaching and it will be a very busy time for First Army Division East. Thousands of new Soldiers, sailors and airmen will pass through our mobilization stations. We must work as a team — brigade and division headquarters staff — to care for, lead and mentor these young men and women so that they will be prepared to defend our nation and help rebuild other countries. This is our preparation time, so I encourage each of you to look at what you will need and who you will need to make our mission a success.

We must improve our communica-



Maj. Gen. Jay Hood

tion up and down the chain. If you do not know who your counterpart is here at the division, then you need to make every effort to find out who it is and make a phone call. Everyone

gains when we share lessons learned and strategies to overcome challenges. Communication is critical to our success and the success of those we train.

We will bid farewell to a number of brigade commanders over the next four to five months. We commend you for a job well done and wish you the best in your new assignments. I charge you to continue to do the best you can for the service members and civilian employees who serve with you.

Thank you for all that you do each day. Let's continue to build a strong team that will not fail in its mission to train Soldiers for combat.

Train for Combat!

Chief's Comments: Reduction of Post Mobilization Training

By Col. Rick Fink,
First Army Division East Chief of Staff

Reduction of post-mobilization training is upon us whether we like it or not. We have worked for many years to refine and tweak the current mobilization system. That system, in itself, has challenges created by limited resources, but this system is changing as I type this article.

As we follow the Army Chief of Staff's new guidance to make mobilizations happen within 12 months, we will see a number of significant changes, such as shorter periods of time for "boots on the ground." We have also been told to eliminate some low priority subjects that have little relevance to the current missions and to do as much concurrent training as possible. In addition to this, we've been directed to minimize post-mobilization distance from home stations whenever possible.

Pre-mobilization training will be certified by representatives from the Chief of Army Reserves and Department of the Army National Guard. First Army and Forces Command will continue to validate post-mobilization training. These changes will cause pertinent regulations to be updated. The proposed courses of action listed below may

or may not be endorsed in the future.

In conjunction with the RPMT, we are also implementing the Army Force Generation Model. All units getting orders after Jan. 19, 2007, will be under the new 365-day mobilization timeline. The reduced days available for mobilization will increase pre-mobilization training and the operation tempo to make sure that Soldiers are trained and certified on certain tasks during the alert phase. Our goal now becomes one of filling and stabilizing units a year in advance, rather than once they are at the mobilization station, as often happens today.

Our new model will require units to get some, or all, of their mission specific uniforms, rapid fielding initiatives, equipment, automation and training sets up to a year before the mission so they can properly train at home station or in local or regional training areas. Thus, this model requires earlier notification, alerts and orders for units to stay in line with the ARFORGEN model. There will be increased demands for distributive training and trainers. Information and resources will have to be shared earlier.

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Quick Cuts from the Command Seargent Major

By Command Sgt. Maj. Marvell Dean, First Army Division East CSM

In this issue’s column, I would like to take the time to recognize our Soldiers who have returned from theater. Those listed below are just a few of those Soldiers. I am proud of the work these Soldiers have done, as we all should be.

Soldiers from different elements of the 189th Infantry Brigade have returned from combat. Sadly, two Soldiers did not return and one was wounded. Master Sgt. Robert West and Warrant Officer 4 John Engeman were both killed in action. Staff Sgt. Darryl Sebastian Jones was wounded in action and lost his arm.

Soldiers from the 189th include: Sgt. 1st Class Anthony F. Aguimatang, Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Matrall Davis, Sgt. 1st Class Henry Anderson Ferrell Jr., Master Sgt. Richard A. Morin, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Michael Ninelist, Sgt. 1st Class McGlen Odom Jr., Sgt. 1st Class Terry Jamel Price and Master Sgt. Randell Windham.



Command Sgt. Maj. Marvell Dean

Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Lee Baker, Sgt. Stonnie Bell Jr., Sgt. 1st Class Tony Curtis Burden, Staff Sgt. Andre Culbreath, Sgt. Christopher L. Harvey, Master Sgt. Gerald Hernandez, Sgt. York Hosang, Maj. David W. Linquist, Staff Sgt. Brent Myron McCloy, Staff Sgt. Ronald A. Smith and Lt. Col. Mark Allen Sweeney.

Sgt. 1st Class James M. Birdsong, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan R. Lowe, Lt. Col. Charles H. Vanheusen, Maj. Dana A. Williams and Sgt. 1st Class Todd A. Wilson.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason T. Bodnar, Master Sgt. Joseph Alexander Cason, Capt. James H. Chapman III, Sgt. 1st Class Hugh Francis Conlon, Sgt. 1st Class Peter Gaskins, Sgt. 1st Class Dextor

Barnard Jones, Maj. Jesus M. Santiago, Sgt. 1st Class Edward L. Spence Jr., Capt. Andrew K. Tapscott and Master Sgt. John Vanderstighel.

Sgt. 1st Class Carlisie Y. Jones, Maj. John Mark Jones, Capt. Robert Karl Lambert, Master Sgt. Robert Lee Lusk, Sgt. 1st Class David Dale Mitchell, Capt. Douglas Clayton Mohr, Maj. Michael Taylor and Staff Sgt. James Kevin Wilson.

Maj. John H. Casper, Capt. Ernest M. Franks, Sgt. 1st Class Eric B. Gehring, Maj. Tommy Herald Hall, Capt. Vita Hambrick, Lt. Col. Sean Hotaling, Maj. Max L. Kuhns, Capt. Cary A. Rux and Maj. Christopher Smith.

Soldiers from the 4th Cavalry Division Soldiers include: Sgt. 1st Class Josef Daneri, Sgt. Maj. Brent Emerson, Master Sgt. Roosevelt Emerson, Master Sgt. Ernest Engman, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Fetterly, Maj. Travis Gray, Maj. Kenneth Harris, Maj. Michael Horn, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Joseph, Sgt. 1st Class William Kavanaugh, Master Sgt. James Lemon, Sgt. 1st Class Allen Long, Capt. David McKim, Col. David Penn, Maj. Eddie Perry, Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Pollard, Lt. Col. Ronald Reyna, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Sizemore, Master Sgt. Robert Trujillo and Lt. Col. (promotable) Louis Wingate.

Chaplain’s Corner

By Chaplain Rod Lindsay, First Army Division East Chaplain

God uses plain, ordinary, everyday people to perform extraordinary tasks.

The next time you think or feel like God can’t use you, just remember the Holy Scriptures remind us ...

Noah was a drunk, Abraham was too old, Isaac was a daydreamer, Jacob was a liar, Leah was ugly and Joseph was abused.

Moses had a stuttering problem, Gideon was afraid, Samson had long hair and was a womanizer, Rahab was a prostitute, Jeremiah and Timothy were too young, David had an affair and was a murderer, Elijah was suicidal, Isaiah preached naked, Jonah ran from God and Naomi was a widow.

Job went bankrupt, Peter denied Christ, the Disciples fell asleep while praying, Martha worried about everything, the Samaritan woman was divorced (more than once), Zaccheus was too small, Paul was too religious, Timothy had an ulcer and Lazarus was dead!



God can use you to your full potential. In the Circle of God’s love, God’s waiting to use your full potential.

- 1. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
- 2. Dear God, I have a problem, it’s me.
- 3. Growing old is inevitable ... growing up is optional.
- 4. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
- 5. Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted.
- 6. Do the math - count your blessings.
- 7. Faith is the ability to not panic.
- 8. Laugh every day; it’s like inner jogging.
- 9. If you worry, you didn’t pray. If you pray, don’t worry.
- 10. As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home everyday.
- 11. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
- 12. The most important things in your house are the people.
- 13. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.
- 14. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
- 15. He or she who dies with the most toys is still dead.

JAG Briefs: Proper use of government vehicles

By Maj. Dave Willson, First Army Division East JAG

Within First Army Division East, government vehicles are a primary mode of transportation. Many rules and few exceptions exist for the use of these vehicles which can sometimes be confusing.

A good rule of thumb for use of a government vehicle is to remember it is not your personal vehicle and should not be treated as such, regardless of convenience. This means no personal errands, private social functions or side trips all for the sake of convenience. Family members should not be transported in a government vehicle and they may not be used for transportation to and from your home or residence. Government vehicles should not be used to pick up supplies for unofficial functions or activities, e.g. office coffee supplies and luncheons.

Another good rule of thumb regarding use of government vehicles is how you treat the vehicle. If the vehicle is starting to look like your personal vehicle on the inside, e.g. little doodads, trash and empty containers everywhere, you are probably getting too comfortable with the vehicle. Step back and tell yourself, “this is an official government vehicle the tax payers have provided for official use.” The

bottom line is, when in doubt, ask your Judge Advocate General if the intended use for the government vehicle is authorized and if an exception can be granted. Failure to follow the regulations and policies is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and could ruin your day.



There are many rules for the usage of government vehicles. If you are not sure of those rules, please contact your Judge Advocate General's office.

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Mission possible

Continued from ... page 1

One positive item about this change – from the unit perspective – is everyone can be mobilized without the need to sign a COTTAD (Contingency Operation Temporary Tour of Active Duty) orders. We are focusing on units rather than individuals.

There will also be a significant shift in the post-mobilization training models from the current models. A set of bridging models will lead to a final set of objective models.

The time spent in all of the training will ultimately be based upon several questions. These include: Train for what? Equip for what? Man for what? and What are the available resources?

To make all of these planned changes go as smoothly as possible, it is also important that unit leadership buys into phased mobilization with specific training documentation using a sign-in sheet or with a Common Access Card. It should also agree upon a validation process and specific pre-mobilization tasks that everyone must be trained on. Failure to agree or execute the above listed tasks will result in longer post-mobilization training.

We will achieve our goals through realistic unit assessments, filling units early, pre-mobilization training and establishing conditions for operation. We must source units well in advance, up to 515 days prior to mobilization, then alert them for training 455 days prior to mobilization and fill units 365 days before mobilization to enable pre-mobilization training. There must be a decision made 120-days before mobilization to confirm the mobilization date.

A unit that is on track with their mobilization training stays with the model. If a unit is not able to

accomplish required pre-mobilization training or has limited attendance at that training, then the mobilization date will change for more post-mobilization training.

Setting the conditions also involves filling and stabilizing units more than one year before mobilization; alerting them early; having a Mission Essential Equipment List at sourcing; equipping them early; resourcing their pre-mobilization training; ensuring medical readiness through increased funding for the Federal Strategic Health Alliance; providing supplemental funding for increased training, Duty Military Occupational Skill Qualification schools and provide visibility of training programs as well as training through platoon level during pre-mobilization.

Additional Title XI requirements are necessary to support this increased pre-mobilization training. Presently, these requirements are estimated to need an additional 1,300 personnel more than the 3,500 within First Army now.

We are also seeing a radical change to the demands put on our Unit Mobilization Assistants. In the past they would visit a unit within 72 hours of alert to complete an initial contact

report, then return for drills or annual training. Now, the UMA must also complete and update weekly unit quad charts and work many issues as well as helping units with questions. They also provide guidance on what training may be planned for home station to reduce post-mobilization training.

First Army is working hard to develop a model with specific classroom instruction and 40 and 11 Tasks that are conducive to home station training. Hopefully, by the time this is published, guidance will be available in writing to reduce confusion and also specify documentation procedures. Currently First Army, with brigade commander representation from both divisions, is working this task and we anticipate a list with 162 required tasks. They will provide additional references and documentation as well. This information, along with a close working relationship with UMA and training support units will ensure maximizing the use of pre-mobilization training time.

Future guidance on how to reduce post-mobilization training and a determination by higher headquarters on how to get resources for pre-mobilization training will clarify much of the uncertainty that exists.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bob Mitchell

The reduction of post-mobilization training will require a great deal of change in current mobilization models.

Safety Tips: Driving safely in traffic

By Sergio Villafane,
First Army Division East Safety Manager

What are some things you must do to avoid accidents when you are driving in traffic? Avoiding accidents in traffic is a little different from avoiding accidents on the open road. Long-distance drivers know that fatigue is responsible for numerous accidents, but what causes accidents when you are driving around town, making frequent stops? This article discusses some of the causes of these types of accidents and how they can be prevented.

Many people spend a lot of time on the road as they are working. On any city street in the United States, you are likely to see delivery vans, couriers, salespeople and utility persons making frequent stops as they conduct their business. Some people spend many hours in traffic just going to and from work. Even though the mileage may be small, the amount of time spent on the road is very long. Every hour spent on the road increases your chance of having an accident.

Certainly, speed is a factor in accidents. Many accidents happen simply because the driver is going too fast. City streets usually have speed limits of less than 35 miles per hour, and often you will see posted limits as low as 10 or 25 miles per hour. Speed limits are carefully selected to minimize the chances of accidents. When traffic is heavy, there just isn't very much distance between you and the next vehicle to stop. The slower you're going, the less distance it will take to stop. By going slowly, you will also be able to observe your surroundings more easily, taking note of cyclists, pedestrians and other vehicles. Observing the speed limit is one sure way to reduce your chance of an accident. On rainy, foggy or snowy days, keep your speed even lower.

When you make stops, park your vehicle carefully. Avoid leaving it in a space that's likely to block traffic or create a blind spot. As you exit the vehicle, look both ways before stepping into the road or onto the sidewalk. You'll want to avoid collisions with other vehicles as well

as bicycles and passersby.

If you must load things into or out of your vehicle, be sure your load does not obstruct your vision. It is better to make several trips with smaller loads than to overload yourself to the point that you cannot see other vehicles. Smaller trips will also help prevent tripping and falling over objects in your path.

One of the main causes of accidents in traffic is a simple matter of not paying attention. In traffic, it is easy to become distracted, frustrated and annoyed. When this happens, you may pay less attention than you should and rear-end collisions, running stop lights and failing to stop at stop signs may result.

Cellular phone use while driving is another common cause of accidents. Cell phone use while driving is prohibited on Federal installations and in many states unless you have a hands-free device. If caught breaking this law, you will be fined.

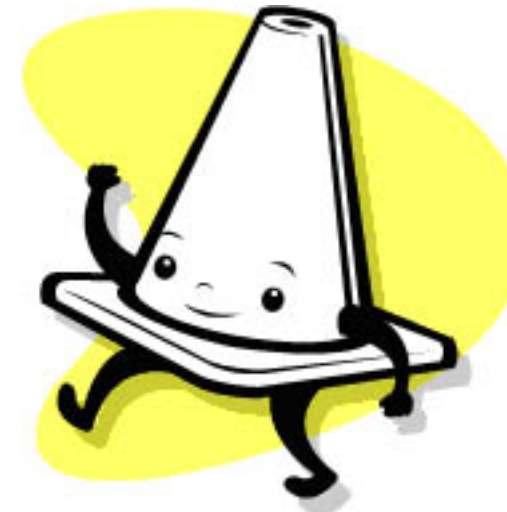
Sometimes, paying attention to the wrong things can also cause accidents. Reading addresses on buildings, street signs and maps while driving can lead to accidents. You will be better off finding a place to pull over safely while you read signs, addresses and use your cellular phone. When traveling, try to pinpoint the exact location before you plan your trip and before you begin driving.

Fatigue is also a contributor to traffic accidents. After a long day's work, or perhaps on a morning when

you didn't rest well the night before, you are likely to feel tired. Feeling tired causes your reflexes to slow and you become distracted easily. Don't take chances driving when you feel too tired to be safe. If fatigue is a frequent problem, see your doctor. For occasional fatigue, combat it with adequate rest, nutrition and exercise.

To drive safely in traffic, you must keep your speed down, pay attention, wear your seat belt and avoid driving when you are tired. Many accidents and injuries could be prevented by following these precautions. Next time you're in traffic, remember these things and keep yourself safe.

Safety Always!



First Army Division East Badge Policy

By Lt. Col. James Dodson, First Army Division East G2

Headquarters, First Army Division East issued badges recently as part of a campaign to tighten security in Pershing Hall. The aim of the badge program is to ensure that only authorized personnel have access to the headquarters building. The current program for providing badges is an interim step toward a full-fledged access system.

In brief, the badge program is designed to restrict unauthorized entry, limiting access to employees with the need to know; we are currently establishing identification cards for visitors and members of the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, a Pershing Hall co-tenant and a subordinate unit. There are several features designed into the badge including photo, unit affiliation and clearance level.

All members of the First Army Division East staff must wear the ID badge at all times while in Pershing Hall; the holder will visibly display the badge in the upper torso (chest) region. The issued badge clip, ID holder

or lanyards are the only authorized methods to display the badge. To avoid any attempt of wrongful duplication, badges should not be worn when outside the headquarters building. To preclude unauthorized access to the headquarters building, badge holders must exercise proper precautions to prevent loss of their badge. Loss of the badge shall be reported immediately to the G2, First Army Division East. If a 10 percent loss rate occurs, a completely new badge design will be created and the old badge will be superseded.

The current badges are an interim step to a comprehensive security access system. Soon ADT will install “card readers” on all of Pershing Hall’s external doors. Coupled with the card readers will be surveillance cameras that can detect all attempts of building entry as well as a security perimeter fence that will impede all vehicular access to the immediate area of Pershing Hall. The soon forthcoming ID badges will not only incorporate all the features of the current ID badge but will additionally act as an electronic key to access the headquarters building. This layered system of perimeter fence, surveillance cameras and electronic key/ ID badge, as well as First Army Division East internal security measures will safeguard the people that work inside Pershing Hall and the information they use to perform their duties.

Protocol Ps and Qs

By Stephanie Runals,
First Army Division East Protocol

If the words “We’ve been invited to a formal” make you a little nervous, relax! Formals are meant to be a fun opportunity to dress up and have dinner with your fellow work mates.

If you have never attended a formal dinner some questions that come to mind may be, What do I wear? and What formalities do I need to know about?

The first step to take care of is to respond to the invitation. It is more than just a courtesy to let your host know whether you will be in attendance. Most dining facilities require a guest count the week of the event and it will be difficult for your host to ensure that everyone is served without a response

from all invitees.

For the formal, dress for civilian ladies will be long gowns and for the gentlemen a nice suit, usually black or dark blue, or a tuxedo. Military guests should wear their Army Blue Mess Uniform.

Once at the event, there will be a receiving line to give the host and hostess an opportunity to greet each guest individually. If the event is large, the host will have his aide or staff officer receive the names of the guests upon arrival and then present each person to the host. Guests do not shake hands with the aide. After being presented, shake hands with your host and hostess, speak briefly and proceed to end of line. You will have time later during the event to talk with your hosts.

Do not be concerned about where you should go after the receiving line, there will be escorts to direct you to

the ballroom.

Prior to dinner, there usually is a short beverage period. This allows the other guests to converse.

An announcement will be made asking everyone to be seated when it is time for dinner to begin. Now you can enjoy your dinner and have a great time!



The importance of understanding “why”

By 1st Sgt. Douglas Rhea,
First Army Division East HHD First Sergeant

When I was first asked to write this article, it took me a moment to come up with a topic that would be truly relevant to us all. So instead of jumping right into a doctoral dissertation, I am going to take another route to the objective.

There once was a man who loved his wife dearly for the many things that she provided to the family and their relationship, except for her ham. That’s right, her holiday ham left much to be desired. He told me that she made it the same way for every special occasion that the family shared together. She would cut off all the ends and shape it into a perfect little cube which she would then garnish with clover, sugar and thyme – yes, thyme, of all things. After garnishing, she would bake the ham until all the juice consolidated into the bottom of the pan, which she told him was for the gravy.

The entire family hated it, and every time he asked her why she made it that way she told him that it was a family tradition, and that was that.

The man and his family were invited to his in-law’s home for Thanksgiving. Since he had never had the opportunity to dine with them, (they had gotten married quickly and had a permanent change of station over seas right after the honeymoon) he was ecstatic to finally get a decent holiday meal.

He proceeded to make his way to the kitchen that Thanksgiving when, out of the corner of his left eye, he spied the ham. Looking directly at him was his father in-law with the same grimace on his face. “It’s always this way,” his father in-law said.

That Christmas, they went to his wife’s great grandma’s house, and when he was asked to come into the kitchen to give her a hand he was shocked beyond belief. There before his eyes sat a ham that was plump and fat and glazed to perfection. When he finally found the words, he asked her, “Can you please tell me why all the other cooks in your family make it differently?” She smiled and said, “Well, when my daughter was small we were poor. I had to cut the ends off the ham to make other meals with and I used the juices for soup — that way we could feed our family for many days to come.” With a sigh, she said the rest of the family just never bothered to ask why she cooked it that way.

We need to not be like that man’s family, never ques-

tioning why things were done a certain way in the past. We face an enemy today which requires us to look collectively beyond the past and to think outside of the box on everything we do.

Being mobilized today means that many will have to serve under conditions that never have existed before and will change them and their families forever. The question is, as we prepare the ones going over, are we giving our best effort or are we relying on past knowledge without truly knowing why the ones before us did it that way?

It is up to us to find new, innovative ways to enhance training and make it reflect the conflict and challenges that will face those who are chosen to serve on the front lines today. We owe it to them to give our best efforts in all the things we do. Those on the front line are a reflection of our ability to coach, mentor and train.

As a final note, a young Spartan warrior once was asked by his mentor, “What made Sparta great?” The young man replied, “It is our steel and our might!” His mentor replied, “Nay, young warrior, steel grows dull and may weaken with time, but our will displayed through professionalism and commitment will endure forever.”

“We face an enemy today that requires us to look collectively beyond the past and think outside of the box on everything we do.”

Raising OPSEC awareness

By Jose Comancho, First Army Division East OPSEC officer

“Not another boring OPSEC briefing.” “They never say anything different.” “It’s always the same ... they don’t tell anybody anything about what we do.” “This is such a waste of time.”

Sound familiar? You may have even said it, or thought it yourself. Operations security program managers face a tough crowd from the start — most people are cynical about Power Point briefings.

Let’s face it, OPSEC has an image problem. What’s the point, anyway? Don’t we all do a pretty good job of protecting critical information? Unfortunately, the answer is often, “not really.”

We make it far too easy for our adversaries to collect information on us, and the problem gets worse as technology

becomes cheaper and more pervasive. Unfortunately, we unintentionally give information to our enemies. Most of us have no idea how real the threat is and how vulnerable we are. OPSEC programs must focus on raising awareness throughout our organization, to include our family members. A tough job, but it is not only important, it is vital.

“In an age when so many troops have access to the Internet, it’s only natural that military leadership has grown concerned about what’s posted online,” said Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, commander of First Army Division East. “But OPSEC isn’t the only dimension to the counter-terror fight. This is a battle of hearts and minds. That battle largely takes place in the press, and, as former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld observed, ‘Our enemies have skillfully adapted to fighting wars in today’s media age, but ... our country has not adapted.’ So to keep vital information out of our enemy’s hands, keep in mind who you are talking to and what you are talking about.”

It’s official:
First Army Division East holds activation ceremony

By Pvt. Samantha K. Schutz and Pfc. Erica M. Weidner, First Army Division East Public Affairs

Patriotic music filled the Murphy Field House on Fort Meade, Md., March 7 as representatives from the brigades and headquarters of First Army Division East took their places for the division’s activation ceremony.

First Army Division East has been performing its mission on Fort Meade for nearly a year, but the ceremony was an official recognition of the division’s creation.

Led by their brigade commanders and brigade sergeants major, the 69 color bearers, representing the division’s brigades and battalions, provided a visual representation of the nearly 5,000 members of the division.

The music, played by the 249th Army Band of the West Virginia National Guard, was seamlessly replaced by the voice of the ceremony’s officiator, who gave the attendees a brief history of First Army and its mission.

Although it was formed in 1918, First Army had many of its “firsts” during World War II, when it was first on the beaches of Normandy, first into Paris and first to cross the Rhine River, among numerous other firsts.

To officially begin and bless the ceremony, Lt. Col. Rodney A. Lindsay, the division chaplain, led attendees in a prayer for the success of the mission.

“I pray that this ceremony gives all the members of First Army Division East a fresh appreciation of the importance of their role in the mission,” Lindsay said.

The Commander of Troops for the ceremony was Brig. Gen. Blake W. Williams, the division’s deputy commanding general. Following ceremonial tradition, a Soldier sounded a bugle to call the commands after Williams gave them.

The division was formally activated when its colors were uncased by Command Sgt. Maj. Marvell R. Dean, the division’s command sergeant major. With the new colors in hand, Dean passed them to the reviewing general, Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, commanding general of First Army. He then, in turn, passed the colors to Maj. Gen. Jay W. Hood, commander of First Army Division East, thereby passing the responsibility and authority of command to him. Hood then gave the colors back to the guardianship of the command sergeant major.

Following the official activation, both generals spoke to the audience of more than 100 people.

Honoré stressed the importance of First Army’s mission – the training, readiness oversight and mobilization for all U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard units within the



Photo by Pvt. Reese Maddox

Maj. Gen. Jay W. Hood, center, hands First Army Division East’s colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Marvell Dean during the division’s activation ceremony. First Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, far left, looks on.

continental U.S. and two U.S. territories
“If we’re going to maintain the safety of the United States, we have to be prepared to go anywhere at anytime; outstanding training of our Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines is the key to that,” said Honoré. “Success in our mission requires teamwork at the top and teamwork at the bottom. Everyone must collaborate to make the mission happen.”

Hood highlighted the importance of training our troops for the ongoing War on Terror in his speech. He pointed out that the First Army Division East has already trained more than 40,000 Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines for combat.

The division’s mission is to train service members with tough, realistic, competitive training to create “confident Warriors,” said Hood. “It is my hope that every member of First Army recognizes the importance of his duties.”

At the close of the ceremony, the band again picked up their instruments and the attendees stood to sing the Army song, “The Army Goes Rolling Along.” Everyone remained standing in respect for the ceremonial retiring of the division’s newly-uncased colors.

Although First Army Division East’s brigades are scattered across the eastern United States, the feeling of unity amongst them will continue long after this official ceremony as they collectively drive on with their mission.

Division Dates

Date	Event	Location
April 2-6	MIT Inspection (MPR)	Fort Dix, NJ
April 2-6	316th STARTEX Confrence	Fort Hood, TX
April 4	CSM Hill’s Farewell Luncheon	Atlanta, GA
April 10-11	RSW Conference	Baltimore, MD
April 12-13	1A BDE Commander’s Conference	TBD
April 15	RSG East Activation Ceremony	Birmingham, AL
April 16-17	1A DIV East UMT Conference	Fort Meade, MD
April 21	218th BCT Farewell	Camp Shelby, MS
April 22-23	Training Support Synchronization Conference (TSSC)	Atlanta, GA
April 24-26	Forscom Commander’s Conference	Little Rock, AR
May 3-4	316th MSEL Conference	Suffolk, VA
May 8-9	Quarterly Commander’s Conference	Fort McCoy, WI
May 11	189th IN Change of Command Ceremony	Fort Bragg, NC
May 21-24	FORSCOM Sourcing Conf	TBD
May 24-25	1A BDE Commander’s Conference	TBD
May 21-25	MIT Inspection (MPR)	Camp Shelby, MS
June 4-8	MIT Inspection (MPR)	Fort McCoy, WI
June 24	188 IN BDE Change of Command Ceremony	Fort Stewart, GA
June 27-29	OIP - 157 Infrantry Brigade	Fort Jackson, SC

Camp Shelby Soldiers step up to help Gulf Coast neighbors

By Staff Sgt. Bob Mitchell, First Army Division East Public Affairs

Every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces is entirely composed of men and women who volunteered to defend their country. It should come as no surprise that National Guard Soldiers from Camp Shelby, Miss., recently volunteered to help people rebuild their homes that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Troops from 2nd Battalion 305th Field Artillery Regiment teamed up with another set of volunteers from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Hattiesburg, Miss. The objective: reconstruct a house in a disaster zone in East Biloxi.

The unofficial squad leader of the group, Staff Sgt. Joe Baxter, is a victim of Katrina himself. While Baxter was deployed to Iraq, the hurricane left his Biloxi home dam-

aged and underwater. Although the daunting task of fixing up his home was time-consuming, Baxter still managed to find time to help others repair their homes in his neighborhood.

For Baxter, this was not an unwelcome chore, but a labor of love. “I love helping out,” he said. “It really feels good to help others.”

Another Soldier from the 2-305th, Sgt. 1st Class John Skipper, also caught the “help out your neighbors” bug. “It’s my first house,” he said. “I thought I’d give it a try ... I’m having a good time.”

Col. John Hadjis, commander of the 177th Armored Brigade at Camp Shelby, said the brigade is very civic-minded. Hadjis said that many Soldiers in the brigade worked on hurricane-damaged homes in the area. They also purchased and installed playground equipment and landscaping at an elementary school in Hattiesburg. In addition to all of that, the troops donated toys for local children through the Salvation Army.

All told, the Soldiers from Camp Shelby have answered the call to defend the country as well as help their neighbors rebuild their homes and lives — not too bad for a bunch of volunteers.

Multinational group visits Camp Atterbury

By 2nd Lt. Anthony D. Buchanan, Camp Atterbury Public Affairs

On Feb. 5, a group of dignitaries from an array of countries escorted by Emily Kalogeropoulos, an English language officer working with the State Department, visited Camp Atterbury, Ind., to gain knowledge about the role of local National Guard troops.

“The dignitaries are sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and are selected by the U.S. embassy in their country,” said Kristin Garey, director of operations and government relations for the International Center of Indianapolis. “They are identified as up-and-coming individuals in their country.”

The group of 12, composed of government officials, foreign policy analysts, politicians, scholars, journalists and decision-makers, viewed a presentation about Camp Atterbury

and the Indiana National Guard. They had the opportunity to ask questions of Brig. Gen. Michael Kiefer, Joint Forces Land Component commander and Col. Barry Richmond, Camp Atterbury installation commander.

Questions about the Indiana National Guard ranged from recruiting to the morale of deployed National Guard troops from the “Hoosier” state. They were particularly interested in how the deployment of local National Guard troops to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq affect local communities.

“The briefing was very informative,” said Henrik Von Sydow, a member of the Swedish Parliament. “It showed the link between the civil community and the National Guard.”

Kiefer and Richmond explained to the delegation how supportive the communities surrounding Camp Atterbury have been. They specifi-

cally highlighted how supportive the Indianapolis Colts have been by giving mobilizing Soldiers tickets to view highly publicized playoff games. The group related well to the Colts’ topic because they had the opportunity to participate in the celebration of the Colts’ Super Bowl victory in downtown Indianapolis.

“It was very exciting,” said Sydow. “It was like the World Cup in Sweden.”

At the end of the briefing, the group was given a tour of Camp Atterbury and the opportunity to meet with Soldiers.

“The Soldiers here are very patriotic,” said Sydow. “Their morale is very high.”

Overall, the group was very pleased with their American experience and they will share it with other high-ranking officials from their countries.

National Guard mobilization ceremony held in USC football stadium

By Sgt. Jennifer Cooper, First Army Division East Public Affairs

Any unit mobilization requires a sizeable amount of planning and orchestrating in order for things to flow smoothly, but for the South Carolina Army National Guard’s 218th Enhanced Separate Brigade, that’s putting it lightly. The 218th is the largest major subordinate command in South Carolina and includes Soldiers from all six of the South Carolina Army National Guard’s major commands. With more than 1,800 Soldiers from the same unit deploying overseas, the mobilization is the largest of its type in the South Carolina National Guard’s history.

The University of South Carolina’s Williams-Brice Stadium provided the ideal location for the large ceremony, which was held at 2 p.m. on Jan. 6. Participants in the ceremony included the South Carolina National Guard Band, as well as a reviewing party whose members ranged from South Carolina governor, Mark Sanford, and South Carolina adjutant general Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears to First Army commanding general Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré and the 218th’s commander, Brig. Gen. Robert Livingston. Various

state senators and congressmen were also present.

The speeches of the day resounded with messages of hope, motivation and praise. During his speech, Livingston proudly said of his troops, “This is the best America has to offer. This is as good as it gets.”

Lt. Gen. Honoré’s speech to the 218th and their friends and families had the crowd of several thousand on their feet. “To be born free is an accident, to live free, a privilege, and to die free, a responsibility,” Honoré told the crowd. He then informed everyone present that he found the “218th fit to fight, hooah.”

Now that the unit is mobilized, the 218th falls under the command of First Army Division East, which is a subordinate division of First Army, for its training and validation. The unit will soon report to Camp Shelby, Miss., to begin their training. Once the unit is completely trained, the 218th will take over the mission of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VI in Afghanistan from the Oregon National Guard’s 41st Infantry Brigade. Their mission while in theater will be to train the Afghan national army and Afghan national police.



Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Cooper

More than 1,8000 South Carolina National Guard Soldiers stand at attention during their mobilization ceremony held Jan. 6, 2007. The group is the largest to be mobilized from South Carolina since World War II.

First Army Division East fields first hoops squad

By Staff Sgt. Bob Mitchell, First Army Division East Public Affairs

First Army Division East's recent activation brings many promising new things to Fort Meade. One of them is the First Army Division East basketball squad fielded by the new division.

The hoopsters of First Army Division East started their first season on Jan. 22.

The team played a total of 12 games with only a handful of wins.

According to team member Peter Simpson, a member of the team, this can be attributed to a couple of obvious factors. "The average age on our team is probably about 40, which would be okay, but the average age for the other teams is probably about 25. Plus, the other teams usually bring 10 to 12 guys, and we normally show up with seven or eight guys."

In addition, First Army Division East was short on experience as a team as well as individual players.

"A few guys had no (organized basketball) experience," Simpson said. "They're running on pure adrenaline and heart. One of those guys is Derek Dalmolin. He has a football background and recently ran a marathon. He has no basketball experience, but he brings a lot of heart and desire."

It takes a great deal of heart and desire to face opponents, game after game, who have fresh legs and fresh reserves coming off the bench, especially after the 40-point pounding that the team took at the hands of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade in their second game.

The loss was a bitter pill to swallow for the entire team squad, but Simpson and his teammates have used the defeat as a positive motivational tool.

First Army Division East put the tool to good use two weeks later when they beat the same team by about 20 points, which happens to be Simpson's highlight of the season.

"I'll just say that we really grew from that experience," Simpson said. "Each game was getting better and better."

Engineering a game plan for the team was the job of Richard Kucksdorf. He has coached at various levels for a number of years, but this was his first (another first) crack at unit level intramurals. "Coach K," as the players refer to him, has a challenge with his players' work schedules, his work schedule, precious little time for practice and varying degrees of experience among his troops.

Simpson summed up the situation succinctly. "The problem is with the players executing," he said. "He kind of has to break it down for us, but when you have a bunch of over-40 guys who are stuck in their ways, it's kind of hard to get outside of what you're used to doing."

In the first half of the season with a 0-4 record, Simpson optimistically stated, "Don't sleep on us. Watch out for us in the second half of the season."

At the end of the season, First Army Division East did not make the playoffs but made great representation, said Simpson.

"If I could change anything about the season it would be more group participation," Simpson said. "If we would have showed up with 8-10 people, we would have been more successful." He explained that although the team met with initial difficulties, it wasn't that important.

In the end, "We are competitors," Simpson said. "At the very least, we've become close as a unit, and that's what it's really all about."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bob Mitchell

Raymond Doffney of First Army Division East's first intramural basketball team, shoots over a defender in team's 53-36 loss to Navy Information Operations Center - Maryland Magicians.

Many memories in same building for retiree

By Trish Buben,
First Army Division East Public Affairs

Thirty years working in the same building may seem impossible to some, but for Lauree Rawlinson, it was just another day at the office.

Rawlinson, who retired from Federal service after working 30 years in Pershing Hall on Fort Meade, was recognized at a retirement ceremony on Jan. 12, 2007. She was working as the secretary for the commander of the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, one of the division's subordinate brigades.

"I have a lot of great memories in Pershing Hall," Rawlinson said.

Rawlinson and her husband, fellow Fort Meade employee Sam Rawlinson, ended up on Fort Meade after spending many years moving around different installations with the Army. The pair, who were high school sweethearts, were familiar with the area. Not only had they lived on Fort Meade during one of Sam's assignments, they were also from the Washington D.C. area and attended Cardoza High School.

Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, commanding general of First Army Division East, had warm parting remarks for Rawlinson at the ceremony.

"It did not take long (after starting my Army career) for



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bob Mitchell

Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, commanding general of First Army Division East, presented Lauree Rawlinson with the Superior Civilian Service award at her retirement ceremony Jan. 12, 2007.

me to realize what those not in uniform bring," Hood said. "If not for you, and those like you, we could not get our jobs done. Your contributions are immeasurable."

Rawlinson, who began her career in Pershing Hall with the deputy chief of staff personnel of First Army, received the Superior Civilian Service award at the Jan. 12 ceremony as well as a citation from the governor of Maryland which expressed appreciation for her 36 years of Federal service.

"What a lifetime of memories (she has)," said Hood after presenting her with the award and citation. "She has seen First Army go away and come back."

Rawlinson doesn't have any immediate plans for her retirement. Sam still has about four years until he can retire as well. In the mean time, she plans on doing some volunteer work and just enjoying life.

"I have enjoyed my civil service career ... and I thank my family and the First Army Division East staff for everything," Rawlinson said after the ceremony.

"I have enjoyed my
civil service career."
— Lauree Rawlinson

Recognition



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bob Mitchell

Col. Rick Fink, First Army Division East chief of staff, left, recognized Maj. William Clemons, G2, during a farewell ceremony for Clemons of Feb. 23, 2007. Clemons spent seven months helping to establish the division's G2 section following the division's creation.



Photo by Trish Buben

1st Lt. Kevin Henderson, left, aide for First Army Division East deputy commander, commissions his brother-in-law Daniel Duchesne as a second lieutenant. The commission was the first for Henderson. Duchesne is a part of the 189th Infantry Brigade, headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bob Mitchell

Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, commander of First Army Division East, left, swears in Dave Dissenger, First Army Division East deputy Inspector General at a ceremony Dec. 18, 2006.



Photo by Trish Buben

Col. Richard Kucksdorf, G3, left, and Danielle Howard, right, promoted Richard Howard to the rank of lieutenant colonel at a promotion ceremony Feb. 2, 2007. The ceremony was held at Burba Lake Cottage on Fort Meade, Md. Lt. Col. Howard is the chief of training in the division's G3 section.



Photo by Cynthia Lyles-Quinn

Brig. Gen. Blake Williams, deputy commander of First Army Division East promoted Michael Taylor to the rank of lieutenant colonel on Feb. 9, 2007. The ceremony was held at The Courses on Fort Meade. Lt. Col. Taylor works in the division's G2 section.

Promotions

Happenings



Submitted photo

Division Chaplain Rod Lindsay, left, reenlisted Sgt. John Bennett at a ceremony Oct. 25, 2006. The ceremony was held at the Fort Meade Bowling alley. Bennett is a chaplain assistant who serves as the fund manager for main Post chapel at Fort Meade.



Photo by Trish Buben

Col. Richard Kucksdorf, G3, left, recognized Maj. Charles Kidd II during a farewell ceremony Feb. 16. Kidd served as the liaison officer to First Army Division East from the 87th Division as well as chief of plans in the G3 section.



Submitted photo

The 188th Infantry Brigade held its reflagging ceremony on Dec. 13, 2006. The ceremony was held at Marne Gardens, at Fort Stewart, Ga. Col. Derek Miller, commander of the brigade presented the guidon while Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Garrett, unrolled the brigade's colors.